(ii) In the Conference of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3rd March, 2001 it was *inter-alia* resolved that subsidies to the consumers may be given to the extent of the capacity of State Government to pay subsidies explicitly through budget provisions and that the past decision of CM's of a minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise may be implemented immediately.

Standardisation of the project cost

402. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested to standardize project costs across the country to avoid delay in project implementation; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Standardization of equipment design, costs and benchmarking is an effective way for accelerating power development and reducing the gestation period for new projects. The Central Electricity Authority has drafted milestone based guidelines for major activities for thermal based power projects. This has been circulated to the Central Public Sector units in the power sector and also to the State Electricity Boards.

Cost of electricity supply to domestic consumer

403. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average domestic customer pay less than 60 per cent of the cost of electricity supplied; and

(b) if so, the power sector reforms proposed to be undertaken to meet the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The average estimated tariff for domestic consumers for 2000-01 is 173 paise/Kwh as against the estimated average cost of supply of Rs. 303.8 paise/Kwh during the said period.

(b) The measures undertaken are as follows:

(i) Government of India enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. According to the provisions of this Act, one of the guiding principles for the State Commissions while determining tariff is that the tariff progressively reflects the cost of supply of electricity at an adequate and improving level of efficiency. It also provides that if a State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers, the State Government shall pay the amount to compensate the person affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the regulatory commission may direct.

(ii) In the Conference of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3rd March, 2001 it was *inter-alia* resolved that subsidies to the consumers may be given to the extent of the capacity of State Government to pay subsidies explicitly through budget provisions.

Clearance of pending power projects

404. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many power projects both in Private and Public Sectors are pending for clearance;

(b) what is the total cost of these projects and the likely generation of power by these projects;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in clearing these projects;

(d) whether it is a fact that private projects are getting delayed for approval; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) There are nine Power Projects (one in private sector and eight in State/Central sector) under examination in the Central Electricity Authority. The details of these projects are given in the statement (*See* below). These projects would be considered for accord of techno-economic clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) as soon as pending essential inputs/clearances are tied up by the concerned project authorities.